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Spring 2-1-2000

### AS 395.01: Hinduism

Anthony Tribe

*University of Montana - Missoula*

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Time: TR 11:10–12:30

Room: FA302

Instructor: Anthony Tribe

Office hours: Th 3:30–5:30

Office: LA 152 (Phone: 243-6844)

In this course we shall aim to develop an understanding of the richness, diversity and complexity of Hindu religious traditions, in both contemporary and historical perspective. We will use both primary sources (translations of Hindu texts) and secondary sources (analytical and descriptive texts by scholars), as well as documentary videos, as materials. The first section of the course will consist of an introduction and overview, with the goal of providing, firstly, a 'map of possibilities' for understanding contemporary Hinduism, and secondly, a sense of the traditions' historical development. In sections two and three we will explore aspects of Hindu thought and practice.

**Section 1: Jan 27th–Feb 24th**

"Hindu Religious Traditions: an Introduction and an Overview"

Texts: 1. Kim Knott, *Hinduism, a Very Short Introduction*; 2. R. K. Narayan, *Gods, Demons and Others*

Exam: Thursday Feb 24th (In-Class)

**Section 2: Feb 29th–Apr 4th**

"Currents in Hindu Thought—The *Bhagavad Gītā* (and its interpreters)  
and Patañjali's *Yoga Sūtras*"

Texts: 1. Barbara Stoler Miller (trans.), *The Bhagavad Gita*; 2. Barbara Stoler Miller (trans.) *Yoga: Discipline of Freedom—The Yoga Sutra attributed to Patanjali*.

Exam: Tuesday April 4th (In-Class)

**Section 3: Apr 6th–May 4th**

"Aspects of Hindu Practice—Devotion, the Goddess, and Tantra"

Text: David R. Kinsley, *Hindu Goddesses. Visions of the Divine Feminine in the Hindu Religious Tradition*.

Exam: Tuesday May 9th (8:00–10:00 am)

**Note:** the reading for each section will be supplemented with material from the remaining course text: Hopkins, *The Hindu Religious Tradition*.

The grade for this course is based on three exams and attendance. **Attendance:** Missing more than two classes will result in the loss of one letter grade.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Readings should be completed by the date indicated	* Asterisk indicates material on reserve in the library	Reading assignments in parenthesis are supplementary
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### Section 1. Hindu Religious Traditions: an Introduction and an Overview

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Date	Topic	Readings
Jan 25	No Class	
Jan 27	Introduction to Course— Hinduism or Hinduisms? Religious Diversity & Unity, Continuity & Change	
Feb 1	Sacred Texts & their Transmission	Knott, <i>Hinduism, a Very Short Introduction</i> , chs. 1 & 2 (Hopkins, <i>The Hindu Religious Tradition</i> , ch. 1)
Feb 3	i. The Socio-Religious Ideology of Class ( <i>varṇa</i> ) ii. God—Masculine, Feminine and Neuter	Knott, ch. 3 Hopkins, ch. 3
Feb 8	Narrative Traditions as Transmitters of Religious Ideas and Values— Cosmology & Duty ( <i>dharma</i> )	Knott, ch. 4 (On the <i>āśramas</i> , see Hopkins, 73–86)
Feb 10	Evolution of Notions of Deity & the Development of 'Temple Hinduism'	Knott, ch. 5 (On <i>pūjā</i> , see Hopkins, 110–12)
Feb 15	Evolution of Brahmanical Ideas ( <i>brahman</i> , <i>karman</i> , <i>saṃsāra</i> , <i>mokṣa</i> )	Knott, ch. 6 Hopkins, ch. 8
Feb 17	Richard Gombrich's Typology of Indian Religion(s)	Knott, ch. 7
Feb 22	The Impact of Colonialism, Nationalism and the West	Knott, chs. 8 & 9
Feb 24	<b>First Exam</b>	

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**Section 2. Currents in Hindu Thought—The *Bhagavad Gītā* (and its interpreters)  
and Patañjali's *Yoga Sūtras***

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Feb 29	Background to the <i>Gītā</i>	Hopkins, 90–95 (69–73, 87–90) Barbara Stoler Miller (trans.), <i>The Bhagavad-Gītā</i> , 21–69 (chs. 1–6), 1–13 (introduction), 162–8 (glossary of key terms)
Mar 2	The <i>Gītā</i> 's Theory of Action and Knowledge	<i>The Bhagavad-Gītā</i> , 71–113 (chs. 7–12)
Mar 7	Theism & Devotion in the <i>Gītā</i>	<i>The Bhagavad-Gītā</i> , 115–61 (chs. 13–18)
Mar 9	Interpretations of the <i>Gītā</i> : 1. Śaṅkara	Hopkins, 119–121 * “Śaṅkara and the Two Levels of Truth,” N. Smart in <i>Hindu Patterns of Liberation</i>
Mar 14	Interpretations of the <i>Gītā</i> : 2. Rāmānuja, Madhva & Gandhi	Hopkins, 121–4 * “Rāmānuja and the Knowledge of God,” “Madhva and Personal Particularity,” N. Smart and “Gandhi, Aurobindo and Modern Hinduism,” Robert McDermott in <i>Hindu Patterns of Liberation</i>
Mar 16	Background to Patañjali's <i>Yoga Sūtras</i>	Hopkins, 64–9 Barbara Stoler Miller (trans.) <i>Yoga: Discipline of Freedom— The Yoga Sūtra attributed to Patañjali</i> , ix–xiv (Preface), 1– 25, (Introduction)
Mar 21–23: <b>Spring Break</b>		
Mar 28	Patañjali's Sāṃkhya Ontology	<i>Yoga Sūtra</i> , 29–59 (chs 1–2)
Mar 30	Patañjali's Path to Liberation ( <i>kaivalya</i> ) and its interpreters	<i>Yoga Sūtra</i> , 60–83 (chs 3–4)
Apr 4	<b>Second Exam</b>	

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**Section 3. Aspects of Hindu Practice—Devotion, the Goddess, and Tantra**

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Apr 6	Contexts: Viṣṇu and Śiva in the Epics and Purāṇas	Hopkins, 87–90, 95–107
Apr 11	<i>Bhakti</i> (“devotion”), its Phenomenology and Modes of Expression	Hopkins, 117–8, 124–5
Apr 13	Introduction to the Divine Feminine in the Hindu Religious Tradition — The Goddess, One and Many — Goddesses of Village and Land	<i>Hindu Goddesses</i> , Introduction, chs. 12, 13
Apr 18	The Goddess as Divine Consort: Lakṣmī, Pārvatī and Sarasvatī	<i>Hindu Goddesses</i> , chs. 2–4
Apr 20	The Goddess as Human Consort: Sitā and Rādhā	<i>Hindu Goddesses</i> , chs. 5, 6
Apr 25	The Goddess as Warrior and as Supreme: Durgā and Devī	<i>Hindu Goddesses</i> , chs. 7, 9
Apr 27	<b>Instructional Reassignment Day</b> (No Class)	
May 2	Introduction to Tantric Hinduism	Hopkins, 112–17, 126–30
May 4	Kālī, Goddess Terrifying and Kind: Tantric & Devotional Perspectives	<i>Hindu Goddesses</i> , chs. 8, 11

**Third (Final) Exam: Tuesday May 9th, 8:00–10:00 am**